55. A method for inducing antibody production in an animal against a self-protein of that animal, the method comprising, administering, to the animal, an immunologically effective amount of an immunogenic composition comprising at least one modified self-protein and at least one immunologically acceptable adjuvant wherein the modified self-protein is modified by containing a substitution of at least one peptide fragment of the self-protein with a peptide containing at least one immunodominant T-cell epitope which is foreign to the animal, said substitution being carried out so as to essentially preserve a maximum number of B-cell epitopes of the unmodified self-protein.

REMARKS

Claims 26, 28-43, 45-48, and 51-55 are presented.

By the instant amendment, claims 49 and 50 are cancelled and claims 54 and 55 are added.

Each of claims 54 and 55 corresponds to claim 26, except that claims 54 and 55 do not contain the limitation at the end of claim 26, which reads "to essentially preserve the overall tertiary structure of the unmodified self-protein." Claim 54 replaces the aforesaid limitation with the language --to introduce minimal tertiary structure changes in the unmodified self-protein--. Claim 55 replaces the limitation in claim 26 with the language --to essentially preserve a maximum number of B-cell epitopes of the unmodified self-protein--.

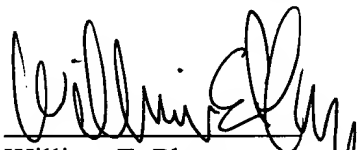
With respect to the limitation added in claim 55, attention is directed to the description in the specification (page 3, last incomplete paragraph) concerning prior art technology; whereby covalent conjugation of a self-protein to a carrier protein results in a disadvantage; i.e., the "disadvantage" whereby, the covalent conjugation leads to "shielding of epitopes by the covalently linked carrier protein." This disadvantage was one of the problems effectively solved by Applicants, that is, in

accordance with the presently claimed invention. Thus, preserving the maximum number of B-cell epitopes (i.e., avoiding the shielding of epitopes) is an achievement of the presently claimed invention, which is neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art.

By replacing the language found in claim 26, claim 55 renders moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, based on the language replaced. Claim 54, also, renders the rejection moot, by rewording the language of the limitation at issue in claim 26. Since the issue concerned alleged indefiniteness of the phrase "to preserve overall tertiary structure," claim 54 replaces the term with --to introduce minimal tertiary structure changes--, which conveys, essentially, the same idea.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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